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LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I write to inform you that, following my exchange of letters with the President of the Security Council last June (S/1998/506 and 507), the United Nations has established a political office in Bougainville to assist in the Bougainville peace process. Since August 1998, a senior political adviser has been in Bougainville as acting Chief of Mission, playing an active role in the promotion of a peaceful solution to the conflict. I am pleased to inform you that I have decided to appoint Noel Sinclair, former Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations, who twice served as President of the Security Council, to head this Office, formally known as the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB).

In accordance with its mandate, UNPOB activities focus on working in conjunction with the Peace Monitoring Group, composed of military and civilian personnel from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Vanuatu, while maintaining the right to make independent observations and assessments; monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the peace agreements entered into by the parties to the conflict, including the activities of the Peace Monitoring Group in relation to its mandate; and chairing the Peace Process Consultative Committee, which is composed of representatives of the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Bougainvillean parties and observers from the States contributing to the Peace Monitoring Group.

Since the Bougainville peace process is in its early stages, I anticipate that UNPOB will remain operational until December 1999 to enable it to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it.

I should be grateful, Mr. President, if you would kindly bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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